NHRC for Protection to Minorities

1140. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has asked the Central Government and the State Governments to take steps to meet to situation arising out of the attacks on Christians and their institutions especially during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to check such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Hon'ble Commission had issued suo-moto Notices to the central Govt. and all the State Govts on 21.6.2000 and a reply on behalf of the Central Govt. has been filed on 24.7.2000 indicating the measures, which have been taken by the Central Govt. to avoid recurrence of such attacks on the minorities and their institutions.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments.

However the Central Govt. has issued detailed revised Guidelines for the promotion of communal harmony and national integration. Intelligence inputs are shared with the State Govts. concerned and alert messages and advisories are sent from time to time. Central Para Military Forces are made available to them on specific requests and a special force called the 'Rapid Action Force' has been set up to deal exclusively with communal voilence. Assistance is also provided for the modernisation of the policing structure.

On 04-07-2000, a high-level meeting was convened with the Home Secretaries, DDGs and DG/IG (Intelligence)l of Govt. of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, U.P. and Orissa.

(The State Govts. were urged to provide protection to the minorities particularly Christians and their institutions and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violwnce against them.